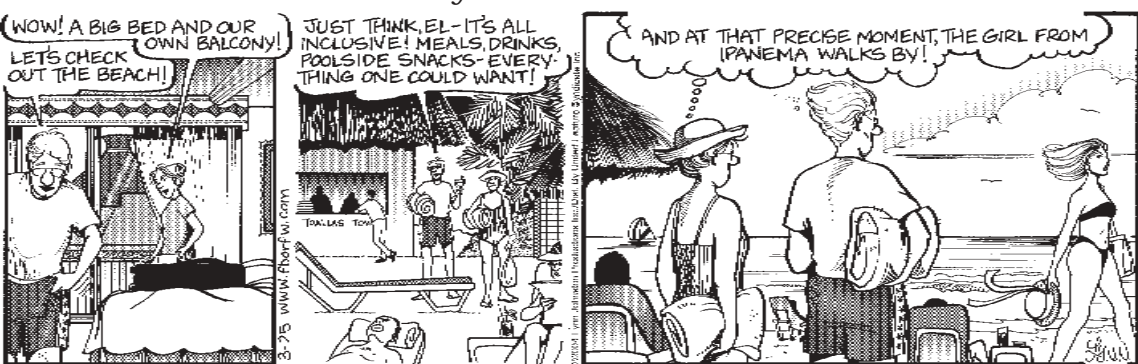


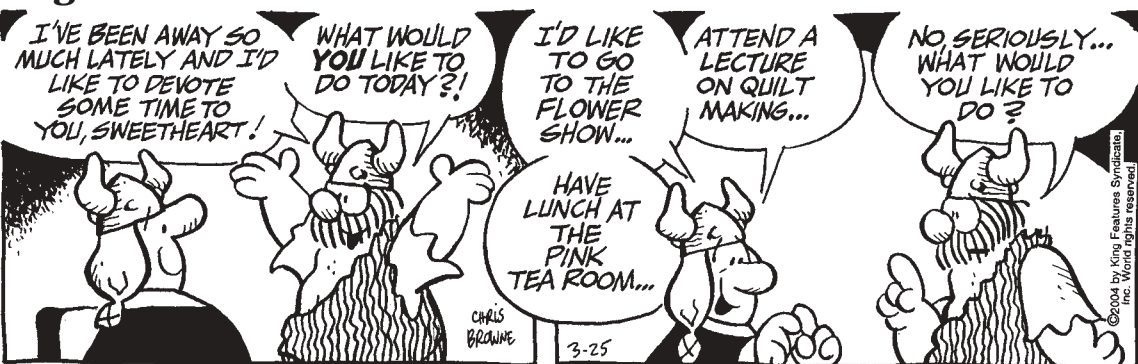
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



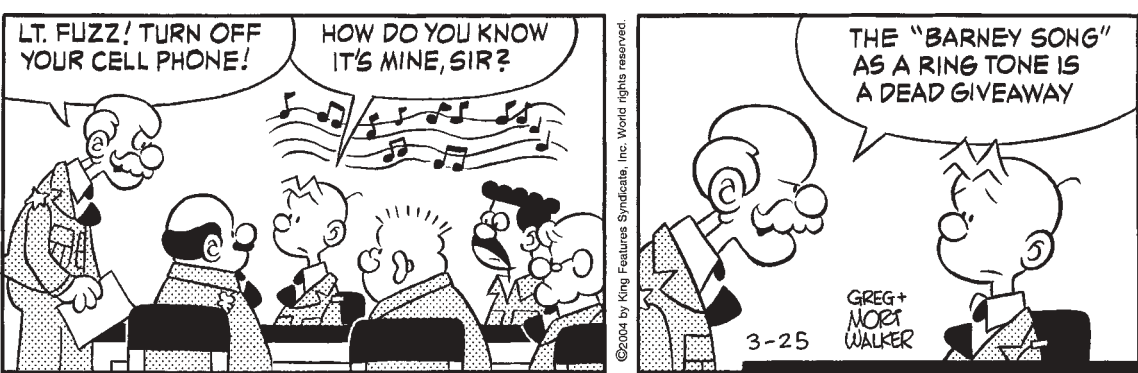
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

DP R PNBHVRIM VRWW
 PNB R FNKTANGB, D
 IGAANIH NTH VNGWF VRWW

DM R KHMMHB BHANBM.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DON'T YOU THINK A SLEEPING BAG COULD DEFINITELY BE THOUGHT OF AS A "NAPSACK"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

Destroying diaries closes the past

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to the letter about the man who read his deceased wife's diaries, written prior to their marriage, when she was a teenager.

He had been unaware that she had dated many men, including one of his best friends, and that she had hoped to marry another man.

The man's daughter urged diarists to destroy writings not meant to be read by survivors.

As an archivist, whose job it is to preserve history for generations to come, I would strongly caution against destroying material.

Diaries are few and far between today, and offer glimpses into the past. While that family may have had a bad experience, most people treasure diaries as an intimate connection with someone no longer present.

That man — angry at what he didn't know — sounds like a grieving widower who would rather be angry with his deceased wife than face his sadness at losing her.

We all cope with death differently, and this might be the most comforting way for him to deal with his loss. If he is truly holding her teenage years against her, then whether it lasted 62 years or not, it couldn't have been much of a marriage.

I don't think that is the case, however. His daughter should be ready to help him through his grief. He will come around when he's ready.

— STACEY C. PEEPLES, RIVERSIDE, N.J.

DEAR STACEY: It did not occur to me that diaries could be of historical significance.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

However, if someone is writing sensitive information in a diary or a journal, instructions should be left that those documents remain sealed until anyone who could be hurt by the contents has also passed on. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: To "Sad in Pennsylvania," whose 85-year-old father was distressed to find his wife's teenage diaries after her death (and others who might be in a similar situation), I want to say, "Please don't destroy these diaries — or other writings — after the person dies."

I am the deeply grateful owner of my great-grandmother's diary, begun in 1855. It has given me profound insight into American history, human psychology and my own ancestry.

A vital part of my life would be missing if someone had destroyed that book.

— SABRA IN L.A.

DEAR SABRA: You inherited a treasure. I can only imagine the changes that occurred during your great-grandmother's lifetime.

When my own dear grandmother, Rose Phillips, died at the age of 103 in October 2002, our family realized that over the span of her lifetime she had seen the rise of the automobile, the birth of commercial air travel,

Prohibition, women's suffrage, the Roaring '20s, the Great Depression, two World Wars, the discovery of penicillin, man on the moon, the invention of the microwave oven, the fax machine, the computer, the Internet, the cell phone and the birth control pill.

Oh, if only she had kept a diary!

DEAR ABBY: That daughter said her dad is upset after 62 years of a "full and happy marriage."

That man should be feeling on top of the world.

He was the one her mother selected to be her soul mate — and nothing that happened before matters.

— HAPPY HUSBAND, ORLANDO, FLA.

DEAR H.H.: I agree.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

For a guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Bridge

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 3
 ♥ K 10 5 3 2
 ♦ Q J 6 3
 ♣ 9 6 4

WEST

♠ K Q 10 5
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ A 8 7 2
 ♣ 10 8 7

EAST

♠ 4 2
 ♥ Q 9 7
 ♦ 10 5 4
 ♣ Q J 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 9 8 7 6
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ A K

The bidding:

South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
 4 ♠ Dble

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Silence Is Golden

Let's say you're West and the bidding goes as shown.

Whether you should double four spades depends almost entirely on how well you know South's game.

If he is a good cardplayer, you will do best in the long run by passing.

A double would alert him to the fact that the trumps were stacked against him, and that in turn might enable him to bring home the contract by means of an endplay.

But if South is not a good cardplayer, the double would probably work out all right.

He might be the kind of player who wouldn't recognize an endplay if it bit him on the shin, in which case he would lose three trump tricks and a diamond and go down one.

The hand actually occurred in a masters pairs championship, and quite a few Wests doubled four spades.

How successful they were depended on how well South performed his task.

Those declarers who appreciated the significance of the double executed a trump endplay and made the contract.

The sequence of plays varied, but in general it followed this pattern:

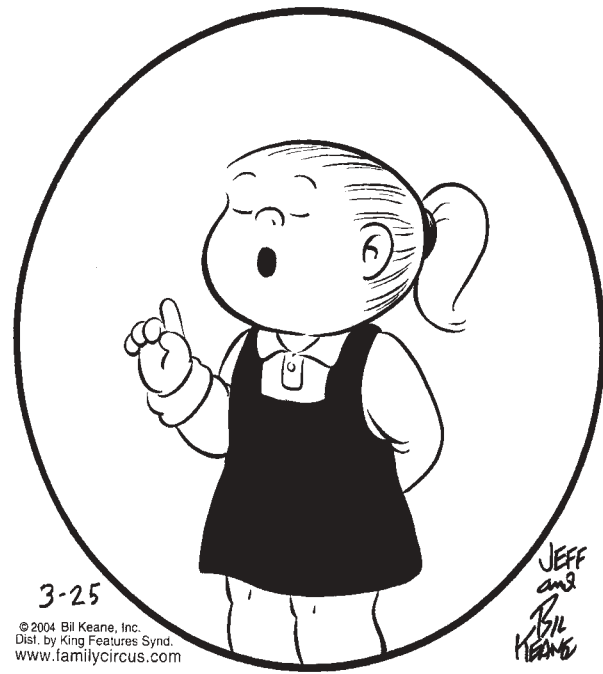
South won the heart lead with the ace, cashed the A-K of clubs and played the king of diamonds.

West took the ace and led another heart. Declarer won with dummy's king, ruffed a club, cashed the Q-J of diamonds, discarding a heart, and ruffed dummy's last diamond.

To this point, nine tricks had been played, and the defense had won only one of them. South's remaining cards were the A-J-9-8 of spades, while West had the K-Q-10-5.

When South next led the jack of spades, West found it impossible to win more than two trump tricks, and the contract was made.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-25
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"... H - I - J - K - L - LEMON - O - P ..."

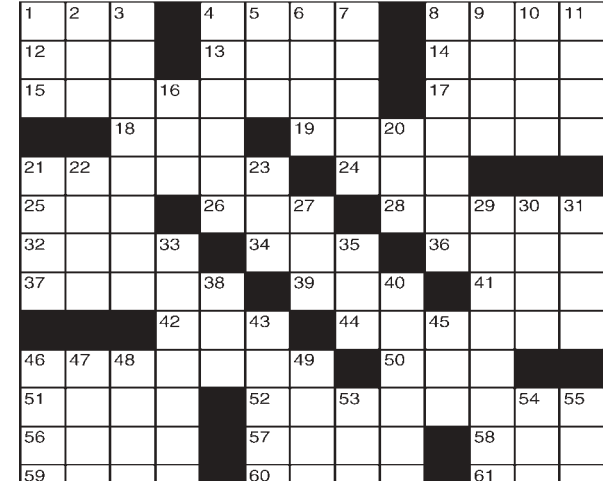
Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Intimidate
- 4 Ratio phrase
- 8 Sharpen
- 12 Scrooge's cry
- 13 Repeat
- 14 Crosby co-star
- 15 Playwright Tom
- 17 Largest of the seven
- 18 "Scooby-"
- 19 Magnum portrayer Tom
- 21 "Top Gun" star Tom
- 24 Born
- 25 Coop occupant
- 26 North Pole employee
- 28 Island near Venezuela
- 32 Les Etats-"
- 34 Oater star Tom
- 36 Unforeseen problem
- 37 Choral composition
- 39 Hodges or Gerard
- 41 401(k) alternative
- 42 Greek cross
- 44 Baseball's Tom
- 46 Novelist Tom
- 50 Easter egg need
- 51 Charles Lamb pseudonym
- 52 Game-show host Tom
- 56 A util.
- 57 Shaving cream additive
- 58 Baltimore news-paper
- 59 Unpleasantly moist
- 60 Shafts of light
- 61 Prior to
- DOWN**
- 1 Letter-man's workplace
- 2 Cereal grain
- 3 Mystery
- 4 Take undue advantage
- 5 Vast expanse
- 6 Sailors
- 7 Bygone
- 8 Ahab et al
- 9 Firetruck necessity
- 10 Grand-scale tale from 6-
- 11 Shipbuilding wood
- 16 Roast-pig side dish
- 20 Meadow
- 21 Pal
- 22 Ashcroft's predecessor
- 23 Shade provider
- 27 Newton flavor
- 29 Cosmos
- 30 Undraped
- 31 Culture medium
- 33 Progress impediment
- 35 Greek consonants
- 38 Mai et al
- 40 Sills
- 43 Open, in a way
- 45 Agreement from 6-
- Down
- 46 Saxophonist's sliver
- 47 Earthenware pot
- 48 Artesian well?
- 49 Actress Ward
- 53 Trigger-happy fellow?
- 54 "Town"
- 55 Away from SSW

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-25



THANK YOU FOR READING THE

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